

**§ 250.1742**

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has a net strength equal or greater than that provided by No. 18 twine).

(f) You must ensure that you trawl no closer than 300 feet from a ship-

wreck, and 500 feet from a sensitive biological feature.

(g) If you trawl near an active pipeline, you must meet the requirements in the following table:

For—	You must trawl—	And you must—
(1) Buried active pipelines .....	.....	First contact the pipeline owner or operator to determine the condition of the pipeline before trawling over the buried pipeline.
(2) Unburied active pipelines that are 8 inches in diameter or larger.	no closer than 100 feet to the either side of the pipeline.	Trawl parallel to the pipeline. Do not trawl across the pipeline.
(3) Unburied smaller diameter active pipelines in the trawl area that have obstructions (e.g., pipeline valves) present.	no closer than 100 feet to either side of the pipeline.	Trawl parallel to the pipeline. Do not trawl across the pipeline.
(4) Unburied active pipelines in the trawl area that are smaller than 8 inches in diameter and have no obstructions present.	parallel to the pipeline.	

(h) You must ensure that any trawling contractor you may use:

(1) Has no corporate or other financial ties to you; and

(2) Has a valid commercial trawling license for both the vessel and its captain.

**§ 250.1742 What other methods can I use to verify that a site is clear?**

If you do not trawl a site, you can verify that the site is clear of obstructions by using any of the methods shown in the following table:

[67 FR 35406, May 17, 2002; 67 FR 44266, July 1, 2002; 67 FR 66049, Oct. 30, 2002]

If you use—	You must—	And you must—
(a) Sonar .....	cover 100 percent of the appropriate grid area listed in § 250.1741(a) .....	Use a sonar signal with a frequency of at least 500 kHz.
(b) A diver .....	ensure that the diver visually inspects 100 percent of the appropriate grid area listed in § 250.1741(a).	Ensure that the diver uses a search pattern of concentric circles or parallel lines spaced no more than 10 feet apart.
(c) An ROV (remotely operated vehicle).	ensure that the ROV camera records videotape over 100 percent of the appropriate grid area listed in § 250.1741(a).	Ensure that the ROV uses a pattern of concentric circles or parallel lines spaced no more than 10 feet apart.

### § 250.1743

[67 FR 35406, May 17, 2002; 67 FR 44266, July 1, 2002]

#### **§ 250.1743 How do I certify that a site is clear of obstructions?**

(a) For a well site, you must submit to the appropriate District Supervisor within 30 days after you complete the verification activities a form MMS-124, Application for Permit to Modify, to include the following information:

(1) A signed certification that the well site area is cleared of all obstructions;

(2) The date the verification work was performed and the vessel used;

(3) The extent of the area surveyed;

(4) The survey method used;

(5) The results of the survey, including a list of any debris removed or a statement from the trawling contractor that no objects were recovered; and

(6) A post-trawling job plot or map showing the trawled area.

(b) For a platform or other facility site, you must submit the following information to the appropriate Regional Supervisor within 30 days after you complete the verification activities:

(1) A letter signed by an authorized company official certifying that the platform or other facility site area is cleared of all obstructions and that a company representative witnessed the verification activities;

(2) A letter signed by an authorized official of the company that performed the verification work for you certifying that they cleared the platform or other facility site area of all obstructions;

(3) The date the verification work was performed and the vessel used;

(4) The extent of the area surveyed;

(5) The survey method used;

(6) The results of the survey, including a list of any debris removed or a statement from the trawling contractor that no objects were recovered; and

(7) A post-trawling job plot or map showing the trawled area.

[67 FR 35406, May 17, 2002; 67 FR 66049, Oct. 30, 2002]

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#### PIPELINE DECOMMISSIONING

#### **§ 250.1750 When may I decommission a pipeline in place?**

You may decommission a pipeline in place when the Regional Supervisor determines that the pipeline does not constitute a hazard (obstruction) to navigation and commercial fishing operations, unduly interfere with other uses of the OCS, or have adverse environmental effects.

#### **§ 250.1751 How do I decommission a pipeline in place?**

You must do the following to decommission a pipeline in place:

(a) Submit a pipeline decommissioning application in triplicate to the Regional Supervisor for approval that includes the following information:

(1) Reason for the operation;

(2) Proposed decommissioning procedures;

(3) Length (feet) of segment to be decommissioned; and

(4) Length (feet) of segment remaining.

(b) Pig the pipeline, unless the Regional Supervisor determines that pigging is not practical;

(c) Flush the pipeline;

(d) Fill the pipeline with seawater;

(e) Cut and plug each end of the pipeline;

(f) Bury each end of the pipeline at least 3 feet below the seafloor or cover each end with protective concrete mats, if required by the Regional Supervisor; and

(g) Remove all pipeline valves and other fittings that could unduly interfere with other uses of the OCS.

#### **§ 250.1752 How do I remove a pipeline?**

Before removing a pipeline, you must:

(a) Submit a pipeline removal application in triplicate to the Regional Supervisor for approval that includes the following information:

(1) Proposed removal procedures;

(2) If the Regional Supervisor requires it, a description, including anchor pattern(s), of the vessel(s) you will use to remove the pipeline;

(3) Length (feet) to be removed;